

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PRC

A. CASKET DIPLOMACY

USLO PEKING REPORTS THAT MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE SIGNED BY SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN CENTRAL COMMITTEES REPRESENTED DELIBERATE EFFORTS DESIGNED TO PROBE FOR EVIDENCE OF PRO-SOVIET SYMPATHIES IN POST-MAO LEADERSHIP.

THE CHINESE NOT ONLY REJECTED THE MESSAGES BUT RELEGATED THE SOVIETS AND THEIR EASTERN BLOC ALLIES TO LAST PLACE IN PAYING THEIR RESPECTS TO MAO, BEHIND ALL OTHER DIPLO-
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MATIC MISSIONS, INCLUDING USLO.

B. THE MILITARY IN THE POST-MAO PERIOD

AMCONSUL HONG KONG REPORTS SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF INCREASED COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP AND THE PLA:

--THE LEADERSHIP HAS ATTEMPTED TO IMPROVE THE PLA'S PUBLIC IMAGE AND FOSTER THE IMPRESSION OF MILITARY

RESPONSIVENESS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LED BY PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG.

--THE MILITARY HAS DE-EMPHASIZED AND APPARENTLY RESOLVED SOME OF THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN TENG'S MILITARY PROGRAM, AND MODERNIZATION MAY WELL CONTINUE.

--THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S MILITARY COMMISSION HAS BEEN PROMINENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH KEY LEADERSHIP ACTIONS.

AMCONSUL COMMENT: IN THE SHORT RUN, THE PLA WILL PROBABLY AVOID INVOLVEMENT WITH CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND OBEY THE MAOIST DICTUM THAT "THE PARTY CONTROLS THE GUN." THE NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP WILL PROBABLY NOT WANT TO ALLOW ITS FAC-TIONAL DIFFERENCES TO REACH SUCH PROPORTIONS THAT THE MILITARY WILL BE FORCED TO INTERVENE TO RESTORE ORDER. (CONFIDENTIAL) PEKING 1829, 9/14 AND HONG KONG 10691, 9/13.)

2. LIBYA: QADHAFI STANDS ALONE

EMBASSY TRIPOLI REPORTS THAT VIEWED IN RETROSPECT QADHAFI'S ISOLATION FROM HIS SENIOR LIBYAN COLLEAGUES WAS NOTICEABLE AT THE SEPTEMBER 1 FESTIVITIES. WHILE BORED WITH THE DOMESTIC PORTIONS OF QADHAFI'S SPEECH, THE SENIOR OFFICIALS SEEMED RELIEVED WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THERE WOULD BE NO BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. THE EMBASSY SUSPECTS THIS WAS THE FIRST INTIMATION FOR THESE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF QADHAFI'S INTENTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TRIPOLI 1205, 9/13.)

3. GREAT BRITAIN: CABINET SHUFFLED, POLICY HAND THE SAME

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THE WIDELY EXPECTED CABINET SHUFFLE ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 10 STRENGTHENED THE GOVERNMENT SLIGHTLY BUT WILL NOT ALTER ITS PRESENT POLICY, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LONDON. THE EMBASSY ADDS:

--CALLAGHAN HAS BROUGHT YOUNGER TALENT INTO THE CABINET AND REPAID SOME POLITICAL DEBTS.

--THE ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION REFLECTS CALLAGHAN'S BELIEF THAT SUPER-DEPARTMENTS ARE UNWIELDY.

--REES WILL MORE THAN FILL JENKINS' POST AT THE HOME OFFICE AND THE DYNAMIC MRS. WILLIAMS WILL INHERIT JENKINS' MANTLE AS LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY'S RIGHT WING.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE INFUSION OF NEW BLOOD COULD DO AS MUCH TO REINVIGORATE THE LABOR PARTY AS DID CALLAGHAN'S SUCCESSION. THIS IS AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED INTRACTABILITY OF BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND THE ANTICIPATED EMERGENCE OF DEVOLUTION AS A CRITICAL POLITICAL ISSUE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 14348, 9/13.)

4. BOYCOTTS PLANNED THIS WEEK IN SOUTH AFRICA

CAPETOWN: PAMPHLETS CALLING FOR A 2-DAY WORK BOYCOTT SEPTEMBER 16-17 AND THREATENING REPRISALS AGAINST SCABS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED IN COLORED AND AFRICAN RESIDENTIAL AREAS. POLICE HAVE PROMISED PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT OBSERVE THE BOYCOTT.

SOWETO: A SECOND 3-DAY BOYCOTT, WHICH APPEARS HIGHLY ORGANIZED, WAS BEGUN SEPTEMBER 13 BY SOWETO RESIDENTS. MANY FIRMS REPORTED ABSENTEE RATES OF 70 PER CENT OR MORE. CONGEN JOHANNESBURG DOES NOT BELIEVE THE BOYCOTT IS KEYED TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT SINCE IT HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR DAYS, BUT SUSPECTS SUCH A CONNECTION MAY BE CLAIMED IN DUE COURSE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PRETORIA 4110; (UNCLASSIFIED) JOHANNESBURG 1586 AND CAPETOWN 1025, 9/13.)

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5. JAPAN: SETTING THE STAGE FOR UNGA

FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA VISITED THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES SEPTEMBER 10, THE FIRST JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO DO SO. THE VISIT WAS PLANNED TO UNDERLINE JAPAN'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN RETURN OF THE ISLANDS, BEFORE THE UPCOMING BILATERALS WITH GROMYKO AT THE UNGA. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY TOKYO SAYS THERE IS CONFUSION OVER THE MEANING OF THE SOVIET SEIZURE OF JAPANESE FISHING BOATS; SOME VIEW IT AS A SOVIET EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE THEY STILL CONTROL THE ISLANDS, WHILE OTHERS BELIEVE THE SHIPS WERE SEIZED IN AN EFFORT TO FORCE RETURN OF THE MIG-25. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 13747, 9/13.)

6. MARCOS CREATES ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATURE

ON SEPTEMBER 11 THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED CREATION OF A LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (LAC). THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL:

--ADVISE THE PRESIDENT ON LAW-MAKING FUNCTIONS;

--PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE CITIZENRY TO STATE ITS VIEWS ON NATIONAL ISSUES;

--RATIONALIZE, UNIFY, AND CLARIFY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH; AND

--PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR REVIEWING THE STRUCTURES AND EFFICIENCY OF OTHER OFFICIAL BODIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN CREATING THE LAC PRESIDENT MARCOS ENSURES HE HAS AN ERSATZ LEGISLATURE SHOULD NORMALIZATION PROVE MORE DIFFICULT THAN HE ANTICIPATES. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MANILA 14020, 9/13.) ROBINSON

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